

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 431  
By Chumney

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

WHEREAS, because women's health issues are of paramount concern to the citizens of Tennessee, the 99th General Assembly established, by means of HJR No. 89, a special joint committee to study this important topic; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee was appointed and convened in the early fall of 1995, and subsequently held hearings in Nashville and Memphis; and

WHEREAS, as a result of its hard work and investigations, the special joint committee has formulated the following general recommendations:

(1) Health providers need to be more aggressive in diagnosing and managing problems women experience, as well as in encouraging prevention;

(2) Primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment services must be accessible and affordable for women; and

(3) Greater efforts are needed to educate girls and women regarding preventive care and health needs; and

WHEREAS, the committee has also devised more specific recommendations relative to other women's health issues, including prenatal care, hospital discharge of mothers and newborns, TennCare coverage of high dose chemotherapy for breast cancer, the proposed

Center of Excellence for Women's Health, osteoporosis, research in state educational facilities, and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, due to the short amount of time allotted for the committee's work and the many complex facets of women's health issues, the special joint committee has not been afforded ample opportunity to fully consider many areas of concern relative to women's health in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee's mandate should be extended in order that the committee may further study and make recommendations relative to numerous other women's health issues, including the high rate of suicide for young women and other mental health needs, HIV/AIDS and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, addictive disorders, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee has also voted to support the proposed statewide Center of Excellence of Women's Health to be based at U.T. Memphis - Medical; and

WHEREAS this proposed Center of Excellence would serve as a national model for women's health in research, prevention and service by providing statewide education efforts in rural and underserved areas and developing health professional training and curriculum in women's health; the University of Tennessee network of providers and agencies across the state would be an integral part of this effort; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees must now consider this proposal to establish a Center of Excellence of Women's Health at U.T. Memphis, and the committee should be enabled to review its findings relative to the subject after a final decision has been made by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the data relative to women's health that the committee has requested from the TennCare Bureau has yet to be made available; and

WHEREAS, the TennCare Bureau reports that such data will be made available during the 1996 session, and the committee should have the opportunity to study, evaluate and make recommendations relative to such data; and

WHEREAS, because of the aforementioned reasons and numerous others, it is imperative to the public safety and welfare that the mandate of the special joint committee should be extended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues is hereby continued for a period of two (2) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall remain as constituted by HJR No. 89; provided that the members are duly elected members of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall continue to study and make recommendations relative to the women's health issues enumerated in HJR No. 89, in addition to any other women's health issues that the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special joint committee, upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly no later than March 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 89 of the 99th General Assembly to study women's health issues.